

## B. SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS POLICY

**OBJECTIVE:** To advance the environmental sustainability of Orlando by reducing the use of polystyrene products and single-use plastics on city property and encouraging biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, and reusable alternatives.

**AUTHORITY:** This policy was adopted by City Council on June 3, 2019.

**DIRECTION:** The Director of Sustainability, as an appointed official, serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and is supervised by and receives direction from the Chief Administrative Officer.

### METHOD OF OPERATION:

#### Definitions:

1. "Biodegradable materials" are manufactured products made entirely from natural materials, like uncoated paper or plant fibers, that will undergo a natural process of deterioration.
2. "City contractor" is a food service related contractor, vendor, concessionaire, or lessee of the city.
3. "City permittee" is any person or entity issued a special event permit or temporary use permit by the city for a special event or temporary use on city property.
4. "City property" includes land or facilities owned, operated or managed by the city, and public rights-of-way within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Orlando.
5. "Compostable materials" are manufactured products made from paper, wood, or vegetable-derived plastics.
6. "Plastic" is a synthetic material derived from petroleum or a biologically-based source.
7. "Plastic bag" is a bag provided to a customer, typically at the point of sale or distribution, for the purpose of transporting food service related items, and is made predominantly of nonwoven, flexible plastic that is less than 10 mils thick.
8. "Plastic straw" is a tube intended for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker, or for mixing a beverage in its container, which is made predominantly of plastic.
9. "Polystyrene," commonly known as "Styrofoam," is a synthetic polymer made from the styrene monomer.
10. "Polystyrene products" are disposable food service articles including protective packaging, containers, cups and lids.
11. "Recyclable materials" are raw or processed materials that can be recovered or diverted from the nonhazardous waste stream to be reused or repurposed into another item which may otherwise be produced using raw or virgin materials. For purposes of this policy, recyclable materials include glass, aluminum, or plastics made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET, #1) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE, #2).
12. "Reusable materials" are manufactured products that are durable, washable items, often not discarded and can be used multiple times.
13. "Single-use products" are food service related products that are designed to be used only once in the same form and then disposed of or destroyed. For purposes of this policy, single-use products are polystyrene products, plastic straws, and plastic bags, as defined herein.

**Policy:** Single-use products may not be sold or disbursed on city property by city contractors or permittees, unless authorized by the Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Venues Officer, or designee. The use of biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, and reusable materials is encouraged. In recognition of the needs of customers with disabilities, plastic straws may be provided upon request.

**General Guidelines:** Applicable contracts and permits shall include a provision that single-use products may not be sold or disbursed on city property as provided in this policy. The city may revoke or cancel any permit for non-compliance with this policy, and may use past non-compliance as grounds for not renewing or re-issuing a permit. Where applicable under the terms of a contract, the city may pursue appropriate contractual remedies for non-compliance with this policy, including termination and/or preclusion or debarment from future city contracts. This policy only applies to new contracts solicited or entered into, and permits granted, after its effective date.

#### Exemptions:

1. Single-use products used for pre-packaged food that have been filled and sealed prior to receipt by the city contractor or permittee, or for packaging unwrapped food items, such as raw meat, poultry and fish.
2. Single-use products used by a city permittee for events or facility rentals attended by 100 people or less.

#### REFERENCE

Chapter 15, Orlando City Code; Green Works Orlando Community Action Plan; Green Works Municipal Operations Sustainability Plan.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE:

This policy is effective beginning October 1, 2019.

# New Policy Takes Effect: **SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY**

The City of Orlando is leading by example to transform Orlando into one of the most sustainable cities in the nation.

On June 3, 2019, the City of Orlando approved a change to the internal policies & procedures aimed at eliminating single-use products on city-owned property, venues, parks, or affiliate events (18A permitted events).

Single-use products are defined as food service related products that are designed to be used only once in the same form and then disposed of or destroyed. Single-use products include, but are not limited to, polystyrene products (Styrofoam), plastic straws, and plastic bags.

The single-use policy takes effect on October 1, 2019. The policy requires the use of alternatives to single-use products, specifically certified compostable, biodegradable, recyclable (plastic #1 or #2), or reusable products.



## Why is this policy important?

Expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam), plastic bags, and plastic straws are:

- **Non-biodegradable products** - made from fossil fuels and contribute to environmental degradation. They are often used for a few minutes and discarded, only to be around in our environment for hundreds, if not millions of years before decomposing.
- **Common contaminants in recycling** - these items are not recyclable in our current recycling stream and can cause entire recycling loads to be rejected and sent to the landfill.
- **Main litter items** - found in our parks, lakes, rivers, and oceans, these products are hazardous for wildlife, affect water quality and are beginning to impact human health with the onset of bioaccumulation of microplastics.

## Where can alternative products be purchased?

Most office supply and local grocery stores offer certified compostable and/or biodegradable alternatives.

## Exemptions:

- In recognition of the needs of customers with disabilities, plastic straws may be provided upon request.
- Single-use products used for pre-packaged food that have been filled and sealed prior to receipt by the City of Orlando contractor or permittee, or for packaging unwrapped food items, such as raw meat, poultry and fish.
- Single-use products used by a City of Orlando permittee for events or facility rentals attended by 100 people or less.

